

MDHE
Missouri Department of Higher Education
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June 24, 2011

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, President
Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507

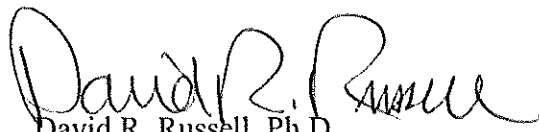
Dear President Vartabedian:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 23, 2011, which advised that the Missouri Western State University Board of Governors has revised downward the university's in-state tuition rate and required fees for FY12 from the original 6.33 percent increase or \$362.40 to a 5.5 percent increase or \$315.

As you are aware, the \$315 increase is still higher than the \$93.63 increase permitted Missouri Western without waiver under the provisions of the Higher Education Student Funding Act; however, in view of the justification provided with the university's waiver request previously submitted to the department, I find the 5.5 percent increase to be sufficiently warranted. Therefore, the request for waiver of the penalty otherwise applicable under HESFA is granted.

I am grateful for your leadership and patience as we worked through this difficult issue. I fully appreciate the painstaking process that our university governing boards must undertake to balance the interests of current and future students with tuition rates that are reasonable and sufficient for anticipated needs. Please express my gratitude to the Missouri Western board of governors for their willingness to amend their initial decision to permit lowering of tuition and fees for Fiscal Year 2012. The result will redound to the long-term benefit of students and their families.

Regards,


David R. Russell, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education